

# THE OREGON PRISONER FORUM

**VOL. 2 SUMMER 2016**

## What is TOPF and Our Mission?

By: TOPF

The Oregon Prison Forum is an open platform for prisoners and our supporters to build communication and explore ideas. Our mission is simple” to build unity among prisoners” to expose injustices and abuses” to identify our true adversaries and build strategic means of overcoming them: to take control of our own lives. We take submissions from all prisoners, our families and supporters. Letters, drawings, poems, articles, essays, reports, rants and raves, questions and answers and book reviews included.

We can include your name or keep you anonymous. Our only requirement is that your language be respectful toward others in the same boat as us. We encourage submissions from all prisoners and our supporters, send submissions, letters and questions to

Portland Prisoner Support

109 SE Alder st. Unit 0717

Portland Oregon 97214

Is TOPF Allowed Inside the Prison System?

Yes. The Oregon Prison Forum strictly complies with rules on security threat management, effective 05-19-08. No part of this publication or its contributors will use these pages to advocate, participate in or encourage behavior which poses a significant threat to the safe and orderly operation of the facility. Per STG. This publication will not be used to “promote, recruit, participate in,



support, display or endorse any group of two or more person which has a common group name. ID symbol or characteristic which distinguishes them from others and has members, affiliates or associates... who engage in illicit activity, actions of misconduct” and blah blah blah.

Yeah But do they have to let TOPF in?

Yes they do. In support of the core value of the free speech clause of the first amendment, we refer our antagonists to case laws: Us V. Eichman (1990); Reagan V. Time inc (1984); Pell V Procunier (1974)’ Turner V. Safley (1987)’ Pickering V. Board of Education (1968)/

We hold the 1st and 14th amendments to be absolute. The 1st was designed specifically to preserve our rights to free speech, free press and freedom to assemble and petition for redress of our grievances against the federal government.

In 1868 the 14th was adopted to extend protections of those rights against state governments as well.

In 1925 the supreme court ruled that our 1st amendment rights would be among the liberties protected by the 14th amendment., thereby securing our rights to free speech and to freely create and distribute press against state and federal regulation.

Yeah, but they violate our mail all the time. What can I do about it?

Any infringement upon these rights cannot be tolerated. Any attempt to do so will be grounds for legal action against the offending institution and the employees complicit in the violation and will be cause for punitive reparations. This means money. Any violation of our

rights will be taken to task. In an ironic twist of the law is actually on our side on this one.

“make no laws whatever concerning speech. And speech will be free. So soon as you make a declaration on paper what speech shall be free you will have a hundred lawyers proving that freedom does not mean abuse, nor liberty license and they will define and define freedom out of existence”.

-Voltairine De Cleyre (1866)

American Poet

## The Mind

by Jeffrey Sanders



The mind is a wonderful place to be. If you don’t feel inferior of what you can accomplish in your life. Once you realize how to control your mind at its full potential you’ll be able to accomplish anything in the world. No matter who you are, or where you are. The mind is always free from slavery and captivity. The only thing in the world always in it’s natural habitat, is the mind. So please use it for the betterment of others!

## A Poem

by Michael Randolph

We're prisoners of the state tryin to fight this injustice.

As societies unwanted caste

always they're quick to imprison us.

Targeted as we think for ourselves

and have opinions of our own.

To do away with us when we're

young cuz we may grow to some

day be threats to their throne.

The nation is out interfering

with other nations affairs. Disregarding

the needs of our own.

What about our sick and poor?

What about our children with broken

families? What about our homeless

needing a home.

We need to unite our numbers

and come together as one

quite fighting amongst ourselves

this war can still be won.

## The Carrot or The Stick?

By Anonymous Contributors

Over the course of the past several decades. Many Revolutionists both inside and outside the mass incarceration system have been commemorating one of Amerika's most hushed prison atrocities we call the Attica Uprising. This happened on September 9th 1971 and was a situation in which several prisoners organized a demonstration in protest of their in humane conditions and were thus slaughtered by cops. Murdered. Since then we pay homage to our fallen comrades each year in a few different ways.

People often have a wrong understanding about revolution. Revolutionary science, progress, agendas, etc. Revolution is not an event. But an ever-swinging pendulum. It is in constant motion. With a central axis. The weight of society hangs in the balance. We revolutionists pull this weight forward. Seeking progress, change, evolution, justice.

Our enemies are those who hold power over us. And they resist the swing of the pendulum. They wish for society to freeze, so that they can maintain power and control. We call them reactionaries. We push the swing of the pendulum and they react pulling it back. A constant struggle, back and forth, back and forth.

But fortunately progress cannot be stopped, only hindered, slowed, but never stopped. Because revolution my friend is only a natural manifestation of evolution.

When British imperialist were driven out of the land we now call America that was revolutionary. When hundred of thousands of our black and white brothers and sisters sacrificed their lives to free the slaves, that was revolutionary. Women and their male allies winning the voting rights for women was revolutionary. The right for anyone to marry anyone they want to marry, revolutionary. And the pendulum swings. Revolution is not an event- A big dot on the maps of history- but can only be measured over time by looking at the smaller pieces which make up the full picture.

“ a conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who; however, has never learned to walk forward. A

reactionary is a man walking backwards. A progressive is a man who uses his legs and his hands at the behest at the command of his head” -F.D. Roosevelt

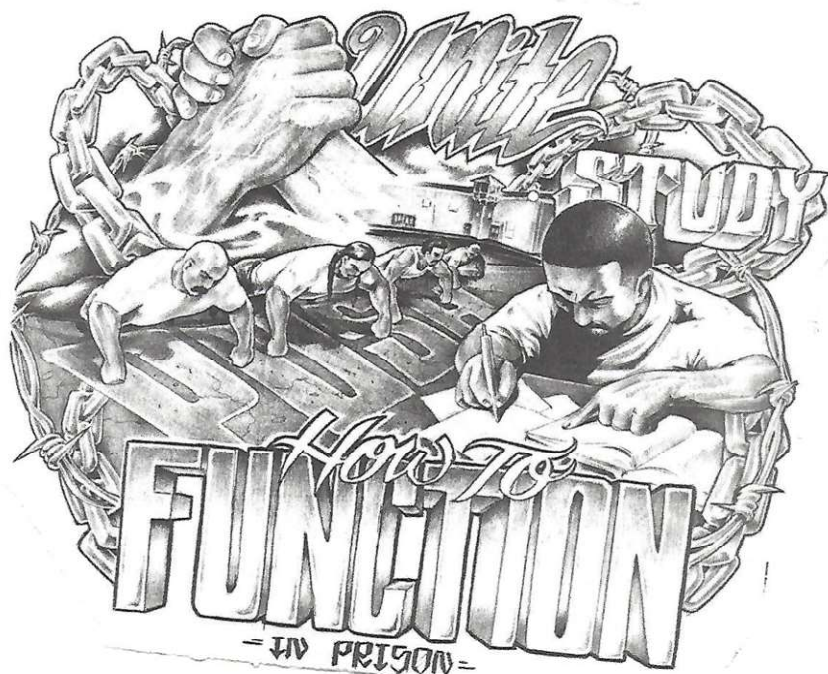
“remember always that all of us, you and I especially are descended from immigrants and revolutionaries” -F.D. Roosevelt’ an address to the daughters of the American Revolution

Anyone who claims revolution cannot or will not happen is willfully blind, the fact is revolution is happening. Over the past several months we may have noticed a lot of attention on issues involving prisons in the United States. This is by no mistake. What you are seeing is a reactionary response to revolutionary progress. It is their attempt to control the demand so revolutionary attention is being brought to the mass incarceration system. Not because those in power all of a sudden felt like being nice to we the working class, minorities and non conformists; but because we revolutionists have been organizing around this issue, they're scared, and they should be.

Because they wish to adjust some legislation close up some prison loopholes, free a few thousand inmates who who should have never been imprisoned to begin with and who were due for release anyways. They expect us to accept their scraps. They think they're gonna put us back to sleep. But the pendulum still swings.

Progressive organizations and individualists, across the nation have been springing up and growing at an increasing rate. The reason why are pretty plain to see if one opens their eyes for a few minutes. Thanks to correct revolutionary education social media and a new generation of enlightened people on our streets, we are now correlating, collaborating, cooperating our rev. forces like never before and what we're seeing is just the beginning of the crest of a revolutionary motion that is guaranteed to blow your fucking mind.

Groups and individuals across this so called nation have agreed that the weak spot in reactionary social control is the prison system. The largest most substantial organizations in the nation are aligned with us in pushing revolutionary progress through massive campaigns geared against the prison industrial complex.



Revolutionists and our progressive comrades, both inside and outside prison walls in almost every state are now working to drive a stake in the heart of Prison Slavery as defined in the 13th amendment of AmeriKa constitution. Across the nation and in commemoration of our murdered rads at Attica, there is going to be massive work strikes inside the prison walls. The ultimate goal is to shut down the industrialized prison system once and for all. The pendulum is about to take a hard swing.

In Oregon and other states in the north prison officials often rule with more of the carrot than the stick at times and so we might not see as much forced labor in our system, instead work is used as another privilege held over the heads of prisoners to coerce them into "good behavior" and compliance. If one does well you might have the opportunity to work, make some scraps to make ends meet while incarcerated, if not, you have no money to fulfill basic material and social needs such as having funds to pay for a simple phone call. So play along or sit idly and isolated. Thus relatively we are led to believe that we have it better off than many in other states comparatively. While prison labor might not be the primary issue for many of us in Oregon we are still subjected to punitive

long term solitary confinement, alienation from our families by being placed in facilities far away from them as a coercive form of torturous punishment, subjected to huge fees to maintain basic contact through corrupt telephone companies, and other profiteers who make millions off of their captive market that the state holds hostage. The oppression we are subjected to is only different in content.

While in other prison systems are basic slave camps. We in Oregon are sitting in a pocket of what may seem like relative luxury only in comparison, only from the standpoint of an oppressed prisoner. Theirs is a slave camp ours is a liesure camp.. their prisons are industrial labor camps ours is... a system of simple warehousing in many respects.

So.. by a correct social analysis it is absolutely theoretically sound for those industrial slave workers to organize work strikes against their oppressive conditions. They not only have solid leadership and educator assisting from outside and inside alike. But, this condition of brutal and obvious oppressive actually serve to build unity among them. They are organizationally sound, strategically positioned, motivated by an agenda and in the month of September, across this nation the gears of the incarceration machine will come to a grinding halt.

Will the conservatives and reactionaries react? Of course, their heads are packed with fear, blindness, ignorance, selfishness, they jump even at our shadows. Of course they'll react. It's all they know how to do. But you can't stop the pendulum my friend.

In Oregon we are different on many levels. The most obvious, besides the racial dynamic, is that carrot and the stick. Our bread and butter issues may be different from those prisoners in other states but we are effaced with a similar fundamentally alienating and dehumanizing process that is imprisonment. Prison slavery is not just about the labor one participates. Prisons as an institution are fundamentally an instrument of social control used by

the ruling class to oppress and silence all those who don't play by their rules and to directly target the working class and people of color. Historically prisons were created as a sort of reform during the enlightenment era to replace the old forms of punishment used by kings.

Back in the day punishment was a very physical public display. The ruling aristocracies maintained order by public spectacles of terror, flogging, dismembering and public executions of criminals, rebels and poor misfits.

This all started to change as the enlightenment went on-wards and kings and their rule became increasingly unpopular, these public forms of punishment became opportunities of rebellion and lower class people would actively intervene in the torturous practices. And so after the reactionaries and the bourgeois classes took control of the great revolutions of the enlightenment era French and American Revolutions, etc), they decided that punishment would have to be hidden from the public eye. That punishment would no longer be about making a public spectacle of criminals and their bodies but would be about hiding away these members of the "dangerous classes" and attempting to "reform their souls" to be more inline with those bourgeois values, respect of property, god and civil law, etc. To warehouse the most dangerous elements in the "dangerous class" as the bourgeois refereed to the urban working and lower classes. And, so the state has ever since maintained the rule of law and the respect of an increasingly recognized illegitimate distribution of wealth through the state sanctioned terrorist threat of being kidnapped from your families and communities, socially exiled and warehoused in gulags for the rest of your life you don't play along. In many ways, this is a much more terrifying prospect than being physically injured by lawmen or executioners.

Along with this role of social control for the bourgeois, as good capitalists always do they have found ways to make a big buck out of oppression. Oregon is part of a nation wide system of state sanctioned prison profiteering. Wherein the state provides the infrastructure, captive consumer markets and workforce for capitalists. For instance, Securus, the company who recently purchased J-pay made \$404.6 million off of prisoners using their telecommunications services in 2014 alone. All those \$5 phone calls start to add up. Then consider companies such as Solar City. Solar City was recently caught in a

scandal in Oregon wherein they were given an 11 million dollar grant by the state to hire Oregon Workers. So, SolaryCity did what any good capitalist would they hired a subsidiary company Suniva who then hired prison workers paying them 93 cents an hour to keep the cost of labor down. Last year Solar City raked in 399.62 million in annual revenue. The prisoners raked in enough cash to pay their exorbitant phone bills. And this is just the tip of the iceberg of all the different ways corporations with the help of the state are making hundreds of millions off of the prison system in Oregon. While prison profiteering might not be as brutal in Oregon it is all around us, you just have to know where to look.

At the end of the day if there wasn't so much money to be made by capitalists off of prisoners, there would be less prisons and less prisoners. For instance, the private prison company GEO group is one of the largest campaign contributors to the republican party and has given millions to Hillary Clinton. The Geo group is one of the largest lobbyist in Washington and they spend millions on lobbying for harsher sentencing laws and have even fought legal battles to end mandatory minimum sentencing on the grounds that it would affect their bottom line as it would reduce the flow of prisoners filling their beds and lining their pocket books!

However, the winds are starting to change it's just a question of how we choose to harness the energy! Seasons come, and seasons go, try as they might. They can't stop the weather. Summer is about to heat the winds. And the fall is just ahead. September is approaching.

## TOPF Responds to "Universality Movement for Change"

The Universalist Movement for Change article has been included in these pages because of several points the author makes and the broader message he brings to the table. It is printed after this response.

TOPF is about giving a voice to all prisoners and allowing ultimate free expression. But let's clear some things up. First of all we find the authors typification of certain prisoners as "losers", "lames", "ass-clowns", etc as being divisive, antagonistic, disrespectful and a bit

short sighted in analysis. We may not necessarily agree with a lot of the content. But we see a lot of valuable points, and a message worth consideration.



In our own assessment of the deeper implications behind the hostility in the author's words, we should take no offense, but see it for what it is; merely a display of our collective anger and frustration at our common conditions.

The The fact of the matter is that nobody "chooses" to come to prison so we can "live it up". If prison was a choice, the author would be guilty of his own accusations simply by being here with us.

The claim that prison is a choice is only one more lie that we've been trained to believe by our very oppressors through a twisted form of logic that tells us the mace in our eyes, the foot on our neck, the twisted and broken limbs they've given us are somehow something we asked for.

By going by the same logic, you choose to be ripped out of your home because for whatever reason you couldn't pay your mortgage. Nobody chooses to lose their home. They like us do the best we can with what we have in a system that is designed to take advantage of us at our slightest misstep. I did not choose prison. Nor did you. So what did we choose? The thing is there's something deeper inside of each of us that tells us there is some type of pervasive illness in our society. A type of rot, a corruption. And so in some certain fashion each of us have come to reject the accepted way of things. We've come to seek our own means of existence in this soft-minded,

plastic, passive society which we may have never agreed to be a part of in the first place. The fact is that none of us willingly signed into a contract that said we hold the same laws that are forced onto us.

The so called rulers of this so called nation and their hired pig thugs have been propagating this great lie that their interests are our interests. Their way of things must be our way of things. And they've convinced us of the lie that their way is the only way. Simply because it is the one that currently exists in this single time and place in history, no matter the flaws, no matter the corruption, no matter the discontent of the greater mass.

In our conscious minds, we've swallowed these lies, hook, line and sinker. And we perpetuate the lie by regurgitating it back onto each other. But deeper down we recognize it for the poison it is, and so we rebel.

Now let's be clear. Is it wrong to steal, rob, rape, assault or otherwise victimize other working class people? Yes it is. And the first step to liberation is in rejecting these behaviors targeting our fellow oppressed peoples.

But you have to ask why we do these things to begin with. Are so-called "gangs" and "cliques" in Oregon's prisons the biggest problem? I say no. The cliques are natural side effects of the real problem. The author calls those of us who actually hold the most influence, losers. But I could just as easily say that those of you who just want to "lay low, go home, stick to yourself" are the biggest problem, for you recognize these evils that we employ to destroy ourselves, yet you do nothing to help us overcome our own devices. I could argue that by refusing to join us, teach us, elevate us, you might even be complicit. I could argue that. But I won't because it too is incorrect.

The fact is that these are symptoms. So we must dig deeper to find the root of it. We've been branded "criminals". And perhaps we've done criminal things. But the real crime is committed by those who lord over us and create the conditions that leave us feeling hopeless, powerless, and stigmatized and left with no other tangible option but to attempt some reassertion of control in our own lives. In doing so, we merely employ the same methods we've been taught to employ by those who control us with violence; the pigs.



Branded “criminal”. Stigmatized, abducted, caged your power, self-worth, self-control has been ripped from your hands by an authority that is simultaneously greater than you and built on a lie. Meanwhile, the author talks about coexistence and tolerance, yet does so in a divisive, , de-meaning tone, using offensive language. In my assessment this also points to the heart of the problem.

We lash out at each other, building sad mimickers of authoritative systems which claim some type of supremacy and privilege over our peers and allies- whether as individuals or so-called organizations. We victimize each other, yes. Because from our school rooms to our work cubicles or prison cells, that’s what we are taught to do by example of our oppressors.

Our gangs are not the problem. Some of our actions, methods and ideas can be problematic, yes, but contrary to the author’s statement, our gangs can actually serve as a great foundation for something worthwhile. We just need a little education, direction, ideological development, etc. And it’s something we’re actually working on. Till then, up the struggle!

A raised fist:

“Anonymous Ass-clown”

## Universalist Movement for Change

by Anonymous

Before you can step-up to the plate, and take back control of your life; ask yourself this: is being a ‘somebody’ in prison more important than being a ‘free member’ of society? The biggest problem in ODOC seems to be these cliques or prison gangs. Led by men and women, who have failed at life, and have made prison the whole of their existence.

Let’s take a real look at the who, what and why of this ever evolving circle of misery... The fact is, that the people that have a lot to go home too, try to lay-low and get out of prison as soon as they are able. The societal losers, on the other hand that have very little out there’ can come in here to prison and live-it-up! No responsibility, no bills and no probation officer or family nagging at them... They

can be a “good dude” in here and for no reason other than they have good paperwork! Yikes!

These losers-at-life don’t worry so much about when they get out. They are eager to get into fights, and so people in here are actually impressed with these clowns! They call these idiots” “good solid dudes”, and talk about how “crazy” and “down” these lames are!

These fools’ willingness to engage in violent and trouble causing activities quickly gained them popularity and “rank”. Moving them to the head of their class of losers.

On the streets their lives had no sense of purpose’ now they have a reputation to uphold and a ‘political’ agenda to tout as their own. They have become a somebody, in Prison.

As the old adage goes “misery loves company” and as the years pass, in prison, these guys gather more and more followers to their hair-brained causes.

Young men from OYA and the streets, come in here full of testosterone and ignorance eager to prove themselves and fall prey to these cliques.

They get “pumped up” on b.s., and told that they should think and act in ways consistent with prison politics. And, like sheep they fall in line behind and below professional loser. A person who can only teach them how to fail (because they don’t know how to succeed)

This is encouraged by ODOC guards and staff in an underhanded fashion due to it drawing the inmates attention away from THEM. They allow inmates to victimize each other, and often “out” inmates who have sexual charges to other inmates, who then; harass, abuse and extort that inmate. Continuing the perpetual cycle of ignorance and abuse, that guarantees most of us these victims of aggressors will reactivate! (Jobs security, period).

Prisons are cultures where a person’s value is determined by the nature of their crime and their willingness (heart, courage) to fight. It is a dog-eat-dog culture that is the polar opposite of society. Those who fail the most, rise to the top. It is a severe case of the blind-leading-the blind. And up until now you were eating that crap up with a shovel! Up until now you actually cared what some loser thought about you!

Ahh well, we all make mistakes. It is the man/woman that learns from those mistakes and doesn’t repeat them, that shines brightest and succeeds!

Now you have been programmed to think and act a

certain way. This was done to you by people who convince you that, thinking and acting the way they did was right. Their beliefs became your beliefs and down the rabbit hole you went! Into a world of twisted logic and nonsensical ideology. You began to believe that up is down that failure was success! And you’ve done all this with gusto!

It is high time you got a huge dose of reality. Already you have seen the cracks in some of this chaos. Some of what you’ve heard doesn’t seem to click for you... You have doubts... Good! Wake up!

While you sit in here acting like an ass-clown, while lying to your family; telling them about how “good” you are doing. Your life is passing you by! Instead of learning some skills and bettering yourself; so you can succeed in life. You have been : working out and learning how to “sling-a-sack” better! Or getting dumb-ass tattoos in socially unacceptable places, of unacceptable profane things!

You have been learning how to victimize “rapos”, who (thanks to you) are now going to get out of prison worse than when they went in! More of a threat to the public and our families!

You have learned that the only “cool” dudes are your “homeboys” (a term misused in Oregon) and your “allies.” That everyone else are “lames” or “suckers” to be used or disregarded... Until some of those people get “crossed-out” (another term misused in Oregon) or “drop-out”. Mostly, over dumb crap!

All these things are at cross-purpose to the skills necessary to succeed in society! All of that stupid shit will bring you back here to prison! Misery loves company!

You have been listening to your “big homies” (used loosely) tell you that its all about loyalty and unity, to overcome this place and the way society and prisons hold you down... while doing the same oppressive and inhumane shit to people around you! Hypocrisy! Ignorance! Foolishness! And when you talk to the wrong persons of “do business” with the wrong person. These so-called “homies” turn their backs on you... no loyalty, no unity, just stupidity.

So what do you do now? What are you supposed to think?... That’s up to you, my friend. Your life and your mind are yours! Your future rests on your shoulders. No one’s feet are in your shoes, but your own. It’s all up to you..

The first thing I did was throw out the prison (loser)

politics. Society is about tolerance and co-existence. Oppression gets in the way of the freedom that makes America great.

So, now that you have moved passed the prison politics mindset, what are some things you need to learn, to better your position in society?

A lot of people in here did not do well in school, or didn't finish their education. You can do that here! You have plenty of time! You can even enroll in community college! (If you are 25 or younger you can get a real H.S> diploma here).

I was fortunate to have a good education and went to college. I can tell you, that it is totally worth it (and necessary)! It will get you better jobs.

If you don't qualify for education here you can always apply to the vocational jobs (to have job/work history to put on your applications, on the outside!) Learn what you need to succeed! Read some books. Learn about savings accounts, credit, living expenses and how to budget. Get yourself organized! Learn life skills! Find others who can share positive and enlightening information/books/materials, with you! In the process you might discover friends among those you would of otherwise ignored or abused. I did.

Do all that you can to move yourself towards your goals and success. Failure is for losers! Don't accept failure, strive for success! Success is the best revenge. It leaves you full and proud of your accomplishments.

This system is designed not for your success, but for your FAILURE. ODOC tells the public that it's mission is to "Promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing risk of future criminal behavior." How exactly are they (ODOC) holding us accountable? How exactly are they reducing the risk of future criminal behavior? Nobody is forced to program in ODOC. Nobody is forced to labor to pay direct victim compensation, nobody is forced to go to school or to drug programs here.

The ODOC promotes violence among inmates and unnecessary abuses at the hands of : petty, inappropriate, undereducated and under trained guards. They (ODOC) do little to prevent/lesson recidivism while they encourage inmates to work for slave wages (well below minimum wage) IN their Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) centers. (Which helps them keep the lights on.)

They don't want you to succeed, and not come back. In fact their jobs depend on us coming back to prison!

So it is time to break free of this system that wants to chew-up your life, to power its machinations! Break free of the idiots that would tear you down, while claiming to build you up! Rise above the mess, and succeed in spite of the people and administration that wants to keep you in here. Your life is precious and important! You are able to succeed and thrive in society! So develop some self-value! If you are short to the house and you are going to go home to your families do right by yourself and return to them a better and more capable person.

It's not possible to truly care about anyone else if you don't care about yourself. Real Talk. Embrace positive change and encourage others to do the same. Surround yourself with people who want to stay out of prison. Lose the people that spend all their time bad-mouthing others and being negative. Adopt a policy of tolerance and begin to act as a member of society. Shed the stigma of a "prison mentality" and robe yourself for success with a positive mindset.

For those of you doing a long time. Like me... Stop retarding positive forward progress and preventing the expression of these youngster's full potential! We can encourage positive change and work on improving our quality of life in here. The system is broken and it's time we put a stop to the chaotic twisted mess!

The enemy is not each other! Quit degrading, debasing and demoralizing one another. Where is your pride and unity? The "enemy" is the ODOC and its employees! Turn your attention back to the 'handler', not the dogs on your team!

Let's get what we got coming. Lets unite for positive change! Until Next time my Friends.... KAZ.

## Truth to Our Fate

By: Warhorse

Twisted political procedures, has a way to warp the mind,

It can have you believing the hype, which is hypocritically defined.

It creates inner cranium confusion, by its contradicting oxymoronic pollution,

do you see a short term goal for the ultimate solution?

Brainwashed by propaganda, democracy pulls the string,

you don't realize you're part of the problem when you "vote"- in their organized

crime ring.

Guilty by association, a wolf in the same pact,

that's what the government refers to as, the criminalized "RICO ACT".

Don't be blinded, by the laws and its crooked ways,

set up for the third strike, now you're forever locked in a cage.

But when police, who are meant to protect civilians, use that badge as a license

to kill,

the jury acquits 'em, encouraging further blood spill.

Ignorant people praise cops brutality, till it's their door that gets kicked in,

its then they feel the injustice, and the truth of oppression seeps within,

the biggest tyrants, is the government you praise, you're willing to send your kids to fight their wars,w/o an argument raised.

For imperialist bastards, you're willing to bend over asswards,

it's like a Black Sabbath record, getting played backwards.

Coerced control, of your mind and your soul,

you no longer thinking for yourself, like a man that is whole.

Bent to societies will, unable to clearly see your own path, they've successfully conformed you. Do the simple math.

Mental slaves, as the plot starts to thicken,

like a poisonous injection, the pulse starts to quicken.

A smoked out chamber of toxic gases



executes an innocent man held down by leather straps.

Nuclear warheads and atom bombs, meant to leave cities in ashes,

bodies piled roadside, discarded, like graveyard trashes.

Weapons of mass destruction, held, in government secret stashes,

used for international terrorism, to control the ethnic classes.

Genocide, by the masses.

The bourgeoisie minority pockets the poor man's taxes

in capitalist country where poverty spread like smallpox through the masses.

It's a necessity to have insurance, or be rejected by doctors greedy asses,

we can try to make things better, as time passes,

or allow the system to destroy us, til we close up in our

caskets.

Government bailouts obtained through the extortion practice of taxes,

either pay for big businesses economic stupidity, or the stock market crashes.

But yet legislatures insist on pouring more money into immoral incarceration,

and less, into your child's basic education,

intellectual deprivation.

Systemic breakdown menopause, gives hot flashes,

open your mind to structural reform, which includes the common social ideology

taught in college classes,

which is meant to mold us to the acceptable thought pattern of our regional civilization,

but the TRUTH is that it's just another form of psychological brainwashed manipulation.

Let's break bond from societies manipulative cons,

those with the mental power to play the naive like ponds.

Are you ethically motivated to right some of the wrongs?

We need an alternate path, a liberal substitution,

defined by the spirit, which is the motivating resolution.

Setting our destiny straight, is a dream we must pursue,

if you're disgusted with the ways of this world, civil rebellion is way overdue.

Don't stare timidly into the headlights, like a frightened doe,

gather your thoughts together, mentally refine your morals, and break the status quo. Let's not condemn our children, and allow them to live w/the assumption,

that we're not willing to take the steps to undue default function.

Behind curtain reveals the truth to our fate,

this message goes out to all those who think they can relate.

# Learning How to do Research

by JT

When you're battling your case, do not expect a quick fight. I consistently tell people to think of your case as a chess match versus the state. Each piece of evidence you have against them, and how the state used that to attack you, is a chess piece on the chessboard. The stronger the evidence is the stronger the piece is going to be to attack the State's arguments with. The truth of the matter is that this is not going to be over in 6 months time, this is a game of attrition and it's going to take time. Although most people do not have the patience for a drawn out chess match, you must learn patience if you want to fight your case and have a possibility of beating the State at its own game. Remember, if you are not willing to sacrifice pieces, you will never put the state into check mate!

What truly amazes me is when somebody doesn't want to listen to the information I have previously given them about their court case when initially they asked for my insight. I deal with this consistently, and perhaps it is my own fault because I explain things as I understand them and would therefore attack them as if I was representing myself in court. I understand that the vast majority of people could never fully comprehend the information that you have to decipher through. In fact, I don't fully understand it myself. Ironically, most of what I learned was through trial and error, and although I started schooling for Paralegalism before I had to withdraw for personal reasons. Of the first ten weeks of schooling, the one class that was of the most benefit to understanding how to read and comprehend legal brief was Legal Research. This is exactly why I am going to outline "how to look for relevant information" and "why it is important to look objectively at cases in which the outcome was decided against the defendant" Even though the state ruled against the defendants claims, there is information that can help you solidify your claims and help you ensure that you are making the strongest possible arguments against the State's conviction.

The vast majority of people fail to understand the basics of sifting through information to find what is relevant to their current task. IN fact, most people only find a fraction of the information they are actually searching for

because they fail d to read through all the case information. Yes, it is true that reading through court cases is a daunting task, however, most people never realize that these cases have relevant information in distinct sections of the brief. The reason for this is to provide various information on how the current case was presented during the trial phase. It also gives other reference material that the estate used to attack the defendant's credibility and the defense used to defend against the State's attack. In each of these aspects a person can garner information that can be beneficial to fighting their case on Direct Appeal, Post Conviction, Habeas Corpus, and even taking their case to higher courts, Just because a court decided against the defendant, you can still find a lot of relevant information that is beneficial to fighting your case. All cases share case law, and in all cases arguments will be made by the defense in regulars to the state constitutional violations as well as Federal Constitutional Violations. These violations help to establish that your rights were violated and that the State had blatant disregard for these rights.

The first section of information is in the introduction to the brief just after it identifies who is involved with the case (IE presiding Judge, District Attorney, Defense Attorney, and Defendant), and includes the charges being brought up against the defendant. It is extremely useful to be able to cross reference charges that were brought up in a current case with other similar cases. This section also holds the opening arguments that the state made in accordance with the charges that were levied against the defendant. It is at this juncture that you can start viewing how the State makes its case and how the State will start to shape their arguments against the defendant. This will also give you information about how the defense will rebuttal the state's arguments. It is in this area that you will find the first area of attacking the state's claims and finding the research material that is needed to try to support the arguments. At the end of this area you will see a transition from speaking about the present case into using case references to enforce the State's arguments against the defendant.

The second area of relevant information is found in the middle of the brief when it starts discussing the cases that were cited as reference material and why those specific cases were used. This section is an excellent source of information because all cases share some point of rele-

vancy and although most would try to argue that "this case is different then that case," the relevant aspect is not the differences but the similarities of law that were used to garner a decision. Remember that it does not matter what the outcome of the case was, the information you are looking for is how the case was presented and the cases that were brought up as examples. Each of the cases has a hyperlink leading them to other cases that are of a similar subject matter. This is important to be able to know what cases you have looked at and to determine what that case pertained to. These cases are important because of "how" they link together with other cases. It does not matter if the case was won or lost, what is relevant is the arguments that were made and why. This is going to be the area of focus that you will need to zero in on when it comes to this second section. In order to help you know what you have looked at, and what relevance these cases have to your own, document the case names that you have looked up (for example: Stave v Brown, 145 App 172), this will make sure that you are not overlapping on cases and ensure that you will have a case listing with all relevant information that correlates to the specifics of your case.

Finally the third, and probably most important area of the case brief, the verdict section. The main reason why this section is so important is because it shows you how the case was decided as well as why the case was decided as it was. This section also holds the closing arguments for both State and the Defense within the closing arguments you will find multiple avenues of attacking the State's case because of how the State will attempt to portray you to the court. Instead of focusing on the way the State is trying to make you look, focus your attention on the State and how they presented their argument, also focus on why the State made this argument a focal point. By doing this you will be able to see holes in the States portrayal of the case, and in turn it will give you avenues to attack the case. Look at why the Judge decided the way he/she did, also look for any discerning opinion that was given on the case. This is the most prevalent part of the information because they elaborate what caused them to decide this way as well as any mitigating or aggravating factors that influenced their decision. This is the area in which the State will outline why it believes that the case should be decided with a State's favor. Ironically, this is the most beneficial to beating your case because it shows how the



State moved forward with their arguments. With this information you can backtrack to find errors in your case as well as any and all constitutional violations on about the State and Federal level. This is important because it helps to solidify how erroneous the entire situation was and how many grievous errors were committed by the state during the entire fiasco.

By first understanding how the State will attack the credibility of the defendant you and understand how to properly defend against these types of arguments. One of the biggest challenges you will ace is figuring out what information to use and what information not to use. Although this may seem like a daunting task, break this down into sections. For starters, go through your transcripts one section at a time it is best to start with the opening and closing arguments. Next, continue with each individual State's witness, go through their testimony individually (Example: Witness – John Smith: Direct Examination, Cross Examination, Re-Direct Examination, Re-Cross Examination), only focus on one person at a time to avoid confusion. Next, compare notes you have taken from your transcripts to those of the cases you have reviewed. Follow the lines of how those cases were presented by the State and how the State presented your case. Do not focus on only one claim of error to fight your case, look for multiple avenues to make your arguments stronger and more iron clad.

Do not focus all of your attention on just the basic claims of error, such as “ineffective assistance of trial counsel,” or “hearsay statements”, but other claims of error as well. Look at all the cases you have looked up and figure out what the defendant used as “claims of error” in fighting their cases and see if there are any similarities to your own case. Remember to view each case objectively and focus on the claims of errors for that specific case. You can always find good information in every case, and although the cases may not share the same crimes, they do share a similar issue which links them together. Focus on these issues and you will start to see that each issue becomes a proverbial “link in the chain”. By looking in three distinct areas of case brief, you can find the means to fight your case and prove that the State committed errors in their approach. By fighting back you can help enact a change and force the state to change their ways, and in turn, correct the corrective ways of the State Judicial System.

cial System.

## Job Security or Rehabilitation?

by Patrick Morris

There are many units in this “correctional” institution in which houses up to 100 or so captives. These units consist of cells. The cells and things provided for the cell life are not bad, if anything comfortable. An example would be a toilet that flushes without a timer, toilet paper provided, self control of light, a window and so forth.

Yes, living in prison and a cage within prison is terrible. Yet, the colossal problem lies in the way the oppressor “rehabilitates”. Rehabilitation by definition and theory is

1. to restore to healthy or useful life, as through therapy and education.
2. To restore the former rank privileges, or good name.



However, from a more truthful perspective if anyone from society defines the power structure and social order, the “offender” of the “people” is to be subjected to an institution, slave camp, or worse. This is in the name of the so called “people”.

This is not only for the mass of people but the mass of prisoners as well. The contradiction lies in the reality of the situation behind the curtain of “rehabilitation”. The situation in these celled units is of and from the oppres-

sors and consists of their mode of correction that consists of promising anti-social behavior. For an example..here in the celled units we are punished if we socialize in the day room. Meaning , no talking, no sharing food, no education material or even a stupid magazine while we have day room time.

The oppressor literally sits at their desk with eyes directed towards the day room and on top of that the camera is monitored by the bigger oppressor. Why is this? Well, their justification is since there is a T.V. In the day room, each captive must remain silent and complacent so that other captives can hear the T.V. right.

We that are incarcerated have what's called “mutual respect” when it comes to and for others. The oppressor is not blind to this. Truth is, that they know that. Yet, the reasons why they apply so much pressure is power and control towards the oppressed prison population. Also if the oppressor doesn't oppress, that the super oppressor above them will oppress the petty-oppressor.

Thus, we can think of this as an analogy for the whole prison system in a small way. This system can be viewed as functioning for one of either two thing: job security or rehabilitation. Of course they say it's all about rehabilitation but anyone who has eyes can tell you it's about job security.

Job security for not only the dog oppressor but the master oppressors. I asked a dog oppressor just the other day, I said “Hey C.O., why are you so bent on oppressing us? The oppressor responded “well, if I don't maintain the order in here then it's my ass on the line from the Captain.. I said “OK”...”so in other words, you're just looking out for yourself and income as well as job security?” I smiled and the oppressor looked at me and with a serious tone he says “cell-in, it's a direct order” I did and took some notes...

Clearly the mode of “correction” is to promote and push anti-social behavior, when by definition as mentioned in the latter is “to restore to health or useful life, as through therapy and education”. IF cutting us off from social behavior and education for eachother, then how are we to be “rehabilitated”. Towards living a productive life outside of prison?

We are not. WE are enemies of the state. Criminals that only enforce for their own benefit, which in essence is job security!

## What “Legalized Slavery”?

By: Patrick Morris

I’ve been down/locked up for 10 years, TRCI, OSP, SRCI and here at EOCI and I’ve had few jobs throughout my stay. All these jobs were shit jobs that all entailed the same outlet: clean or serve. Not once have I had a job in any high paying position. I’ve tried getting one, (such as in the call center, metal shop, garment factory, etc.) and I don’t even get a response to my application. Apparently these jobs are not for everyone. They are not.

These jobs are held for few. Those few have to have requirements too... Whether it’s four years clear conduct, or a GED with no identity theft on record. In the last issue Shawn writes “These inmates mandated by laws, enforced by the state, to offer their bodies in service/slavery to the factories locked within the prison complex.” While this sounds good, I hold a different perspective on things. This perspective is based off my experience, from not only observation, but from trial and error. Here is the following analysis I hold.

The mass Kaptives in Oregon are not enforced to offer their labor power to factories within Oregon prisons, which can be seen through clear eyes. Yes, the measure 17 order enforces labor power. Yet, this is for non-productive labor. Meaning a production of labor and labor power that does not sustain value. Like I said as an example in the beginning, those jobs that do produce value for “OCE” or whomever, hold a small privileged work force. This workforce does produce value, and sure these Kaptives are exploited due to being paid less than their labor (items and services that are produced). But, like I wrote in the latter, the majority hold non-productive labor. The only thing the Lumpen work force produces, is an easier job for the oppressor. While us Lumpen serve slop and pick up trash on the yard, the man stands there oppressing with their arms crossed. Furthermore, I would call the Lumpen a parasitic class that is simply being robbed of their labor power (or, extorted).

I would suggest a more clear dialectic analysis before making a conviction of fact. This is important when educating each other because if we hold narrowism it takes away from dialectical materialism: “the truth of any knowledge of theory is determined not by subjective

feelings, but by objective results in social practice. Only social practice can be criterion of truth. The standpoint for practice is the primary and basic standpoint in the dialectical-materialist theory of knowledge” (Mao Tse Tung, on practice).

To give credit to the comrades who wrote the essay on “legalized Slavery” in VOL. 1, in my opinion, that is, is the Krapitalist class is rot and the “constitution is a lie and a harsh contradiction”. Nicely put comrades.

P.s. Slaves are kaptivated to produce profit, Oregon prisoners are kaptivated to serve U.S. imperialism.

## An answer to “What Prison Slavery?”

By: Tizz Bee

Slavery is a practice that far predates the development of modern day capitalism. It extends into the farthest histories of ancient civilizations. It is not only defined as a method of forced labor; however, it has taken many different forms and shapes throughout periods in history. The modern day prison system in the United States is a direct outgrowth of the racist slave system of the American South. It is also rooted in attempts to repress poor and working class rebellion during the enlightenment era by innovating new forms of punishment and social control focused on the reformation of the soul.

The prison industry in the United States is a multi-billion dollar industry that profits off of the incarcerated person’s body through having a captive consumer market, captive labor pool, or used as reasoning to gain government development dollars through the building of new facilities and infrastructure. In the new global division of labor where corporations and capitalism spans the entire world hand in hand with increasingly totalitarian states working at their behest, in the information age where intellectual property, patents, and the selling of personal information has found ways to make the most benign forms of human interpersonal contact profitable, the prisoner and their body is certainly a site of profit, rather forced to labor or not. The condition is still one of slavery in every sense.

Labor is ultimately the utilization of one’s body

in a way that makes profit for another, think of service industry labor, you don’t always have to be producing a physical tangible product, you can provide a service. Think of the labor of a body guard, often times they just stand around doing nothing, their labor is simply being there and in presenting a powerful symbolic image to other people or society to ward off attacks. In prisons throughout the country prisoners are forced to work for a huge allotment of corporations, producing tangible products every day making billions for corporations; however, today simply holding prisoners and forcing their bodies into a complacent pacificity has even become profitable for a “late- stage” capitalist system which increasingly profits more off of ideas, information and social control than the production of physical tangible products.

The product prisons everywhere produce is the idea of social stability, or American and capitalist supremacy. A product they shove down the throats of every American who scarfs it up in droves, and then votes for more prisons over schools. The commodity sold is produced in the factories of the prison walls, administered by the managers of the institution and the repressive labor of the administration and guards. The commodity is the pacified prisoner body which the prisoner engages in a labor process through their own submission, through moving their bodies in the way they are told, a way that is profitable, moving to the bells and whistles of the facility (the factory), minding the lines and the signs regulating proper behavior.

Like the security guard who produces the image of stability through their labor of simply standing around, the pacified prisoner has the same express effect with his passive labor. So, prisoners are engaged in an exploitative labor process, every step of the way, rather their working in an industrial situation making tangible commodities or not. It’s only a matter of how many corporations and state entities are involved in the exploitation process, not if.

*Let’s Define Slavery:*

Slavery built the ancient world and in many ways is the basis for all control mechanism devised by ruling classes since the dawn of civilization. Did you know that the Egyptian slaves could own property? Throughout

history ruling bodies have devised many different forms of slavery. Slavery is not only defined as “forced labor” as the author argued. The eugenisist slavery of the United States is often referred to as chattel slavery. A sick form of paternalistic slavery. Slave were distinguished along racial lines and laborers were treated as livestock and were bonded for life.

In ancient times Roman and Greek societies held slaves who were often captured after defeat in battle; however, these slaves were never divided among racial lines, often they were given degrees of autonomy and free movement in cities and could eventually work their way out of slavery after a given period of time; however, this didn't stop these slaves from engaging in constant slave rebellions. Think of Spartacus who threatened the imperial heart of Rome with their huge army of liberated slaves. Many revolts like this happened throughout Roman history. And eventually it would be these very slaves who would bring about the ending of slavery and force the rulers of civilization to struggle to reinvent the shackles.

The rise of the serf class came with the creation of feudal society in medieval Europe. This new social order was largely created by the Eastern Roman Empire after the fall of the Western half around 400 AD. The Eastern Empire continued on as what was later renamed by the west as the “Byzantine Empire” but was Roman all the same until the mid 1400's. During this societal reorganization under Emperor Justinian in the 500's slaves were suddenly considered serfs who were bonded to the land that was owned by a feudal lord. Underlining this new social order was a new state religion that exploded out of the middle east and largely embraced by the maligned poor and slaves of the old Roman society.

Christianity was originally a religion of the poor and of slaves that spread like wildfire through ancient Rome as these classes were not often served by any of the many Pagan cults at the time, who often charged large fees to gain entry. Christianity spread so quickly that it became a threat to the ruling elite who eventually converted, making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire around 350 AD. Then under the Pope the Romans wrote the first bible, including only the books that served their interests and leaving out the ones that did not. At the time Christianity was a religion that had its power base

rooted in the poor and slave classes of Roman society; therefore, it eventually led to the outlawing of slavery under the new Christian Doctrine of the Eastern Roman Empire.

To many slaves at the time this would have seemed like a relative improvement. They enjoyed certain rights to a percentage of the harvest, a small increase in their degree of autonomy but had to give huge amounts of their product as taxes to the nobles who lived in castles and keeps with all of the weapons, swords, armor and horses. They were bonded to the land and could never leave. The life of the peasant was one of servitude, a landless person whose destiny was not their own. A person whose life was defined by their master and if they refused to play by the rules they would meet nothing but cold steel. A form of slavery by another name.

#### *Protestant Reformation, the Enlightenment, Half Made Revolution and The New Slavery*

With the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire), a slew of intellectuals, philosophers and artists became refugees after the Byzantine Capital was taken over by the Turks in the 1400's. These intellectuals then spread throughout western Europe carrying with them all of the knowledge of the great thinkers of ancient Greece. These thinkers then started small colleges throughout Europe and began the basis for what would become the renaissance. Around the same time Europeans began colonizing the world which brought massive changes in the distribution of power and wealth in Europe.

The rise of the mercantile class began in the late 1400's with the massive amounts of wealth being accrued by Europeans with the conquests of the Americas. This gave huge amounts of power and wealth to the traders and mercantile class in medieval Europe that would engender the tumultuous societal changes that came with the Protestant Reformation that would set the stage for the rise of capitalism and the rise of western liberal “democracies”.

Part of this huge accrual of wealth was the re-legalization of slavery in Europe. A Papal Bull called *Romanus Pontifex* was issued by the Pope in 1454 that re-legalized slavery of all non-Christian peoples. “Pope Nicholas issued the bull “*Dum Diversas*” (June 18 1452) in response to a request from the Portuguese monarchy. King Alfonso V

was conferred the right to “attack, conquer, and subjugate Saracens, Pagans and other enemies of Christ wherever they may be found.” It gave title over all lands and possessions seized and permitted the Portuguese to take the inhabitants and consign them to perpetual slavery.” (Johnson V. Macintosh)

Thus as the mercantile class began accruing wealth from pillaging and enslaving the entire world. This class logically began to become discontent with the rule of the feudal order and the rigid aristocracy, that left them out of the halls of power as they were only consigned through birthright and not through merit.

This partially created the basis of the Protestant Reformation that began in 1517. The Reformation was led by Martin Luther and challenged the corrupt nature of the Catholic Church at the time. The movement also wanted to be able to have a direct connection to the holy (Protestants could have their own bibles vs Catholics where only the priests could have bibles) and denounced the need for having a Pope as a direct representative of God who gave authority to the Kings. Instead it said that the Kings and people themselves could have a direct connection. The new ideas behind this revolutionary movement are called the “Protestant work ethic”. The Protestant work ethic “is a concept in theology, sociology and history which emphasizes that hard work, discipline and frugality are a result of a person's salvation in the Protestant faith.” This opened doors for many in the mercantilist class to bypass the old aristocracy of the feudal order and allowed them to begin taking positions of power in the increasingly powerful nation states of Europe.

Of course these ideas were also attractive to the peasant and serf class who had a similar interest in vexing themselves from the feudal order in order to improve their position in society. The peasants wanted the same rights as the “freemen” class. The freemen were basically the class that was free to sell their labor as they saw fit and not bounded to the land of a feudal lord. The serfs wanted to be proletariat. And so they also found value in the ideals of the Protestant Reformation; however, the Protestant work ethic brought a new moral imperative of work for work's sake, the endless accrual of wealth and ultimately the reinvention of slavery yet again, by another name. The old feudal order under Protestant ideals created the ideological preconditions for the creation of modern

day capitalism, liberal democracies and its modern slave order.

With the advent of the printing press protestant ideas and bibles spread throughout Europe. Protestantism became the state religion of both Germany and Britain. The ideals of independence and individuality and the rise of capitalism slowly began debasing the legitimacy of the feudal order, which led to the establishment of liberal democracies throughout Europe and the United States.

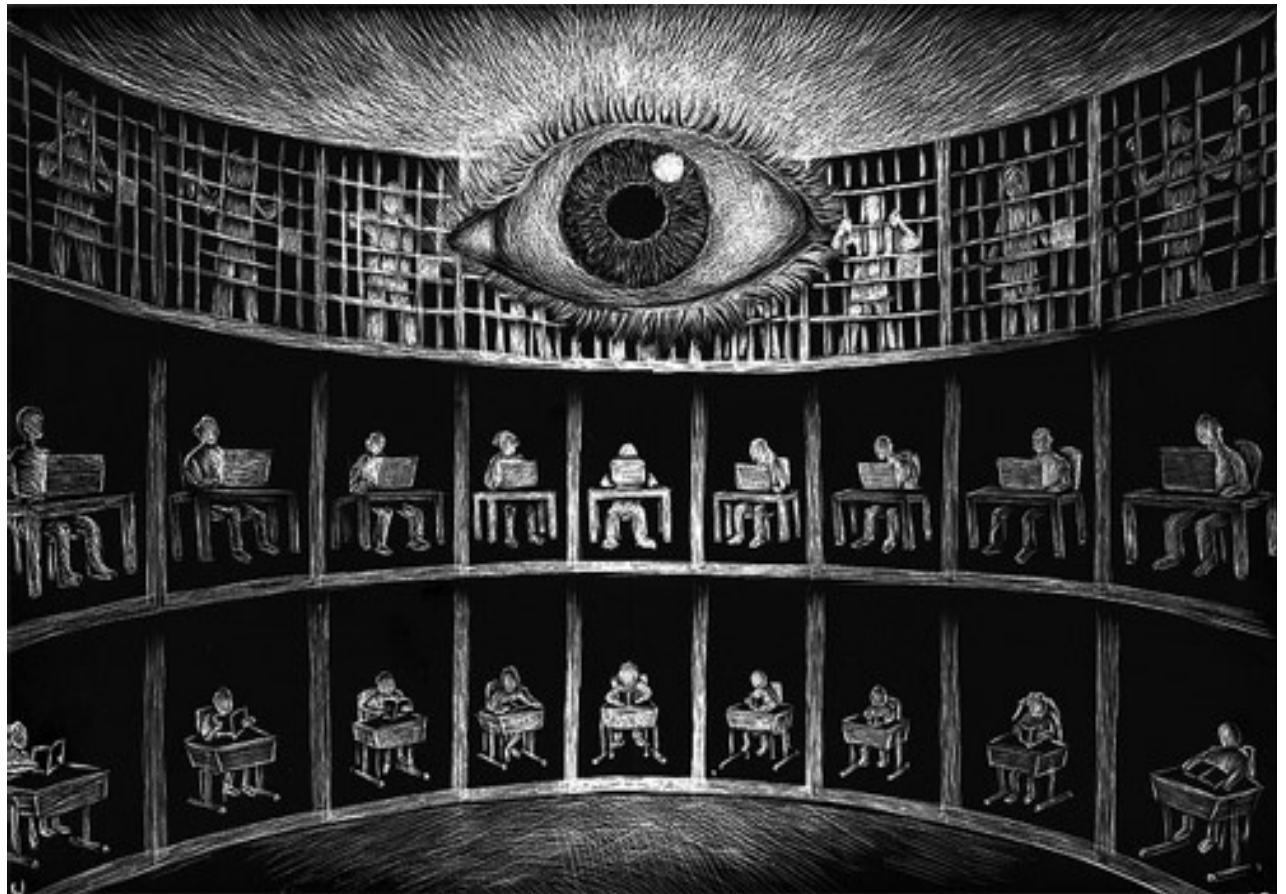
Vexing themselves of the rule of the kings of medieval Europe they were not able to vex themselves of the rule of the merchant class who became today's bourgeois ruling class. This new ruling class then engendered a new system of social control. Slaves on the bottom and proletariat just above them but equally enslaved in almost every way. Marxists for over a century have defined the role of the proletariat and wage labor as a form of "wage-slavery" Dictionary.com defines slavery as

"1. thralldom, enthrallment. Slavery, bondage, servitude refer to involuntary subjection to another or others. Slavery emphasizes the idea of complete ownership and control by a master: to be sold into slavery. Bondage indicates a state of subjugation or captivity often involving burdensome and degrading labor: in bondage to a cruel master. Servitude is compulsory service, often such as is required by a legal penalty: penal servitude. 4. toil, labor."

Thus we have many different forms of slavery that have existed historically and many different forms of slavery that have existed side by side, that are distinct from one another. For instance, factories and wage labor "slavery" was very much a thing while the chattel slavery suffered by black people was still in its heyday until the civil war. This symbiotic relationship was important to maintain control through dividing and conquering the underclass and native peoples of the entire world as capitalism and European colonization began to spread its tentacles over the entire globe.

#### *The Development of the Modern Prison and Slavery:*

After the protestant reformation, the colonization of the "new world" and the re-legalisation of slavery. Slaves became "freemen" but found themselves subjected to a new form



of slavery with the rise of global industrial capitalism in the 1700 and 1800's, in the form of wage-slavery. Slave masters never like to let go of slaves and thus we are brought to the advent of the modern day prison system in this country.

According to Micheal Foucault in his book *Discipline and Punish*; prisons as a form of punishment began to be popularized during the dawn of the enlightenment as the bourgeois struggled to maintain control over the revolutions of the time and to maintain hegemony over the poor and peasant classes who were becoming increasingly class conscious, particularly during the French revolution.

This rising level of class consciousness during the French revolution led to new forms of revolutionary

action. This class consciousness could be epitomized during the mass guillotining of the French aristocracy sent waves of reactionary terror throughout Europe. A large part of this burgeoning class consciousness can be seen during the French revolution where many bandits that wandered the countryside robbing French aristocrats and redistributing their wealth back into the communities. Criminality began showing itself for what it was, an expression of lower class expropriation, rebellion and revolutionary action.

These criminals became an essential piece in the French revolution by depriving the ruling class of serious amounts of money and often redistributing it back into their communities. At the time punishment for crimes

was all very public, except for in modern times, prisons were never a popular form of punishment. Punishment was all very public. It was intended to create public spectacles of terror that would shock the public into submission by destroying the body of the offender.

If you stole you might be placed in the public stocks to be shamed, if you committed murder you might be publicly executed in various horrifying ways such as being drawn and quartered by horses, if you spoke badly of the king you might be beheaded in the public square. However, as the French revolution played out many of these forms of public physical punishment became increasingly unpopular with the peasants who no longer viewed them or the ruling class as legitimate and would often liberate these criminals from facing these punishments. Thus the attempted punishments by the aristocracies only make the problems worse for the authorities as they would often become sites of rebellion and riots..

Thus the ruling class began devising “more humane” forms of punishment with the help of many saintly do-good Christian reformers. These people began popularizing the mass use of prisons as an alternative form of punishment. This new system would be based on “rehabilitation” or “reformation” of these criminals souls to what they considered to be more proper, to be in line with the new sovereign, that of the “citizenry” instead of the king. This would also function to hide the bodies of the accused away from the public eye and essentially remove these people from society altogether, to cause a social death. To invisibilize the brutal power of the state, to make things appear to be more democratic and acceptable by hiding its true nature.

And so with the advent of a new social order in Europe and the United States we see prisons becoming an essential repressive apparatus in maintaining the control of the new bourgeois ruling class. The popularization of the prisons as a form of punishment soon transferred to the United States where it began to develop alongside the Slavery in the American south. Its development in the United States would enable the ruling class there to use it as a method of maintaining slavery by another name long after its official abolition.

### *The Connection*

After the abolition of slavery in the American South. The southern plantation aristocracy was economically devastated and hungry to find a new free labor force and to re-establish the old racial order. Therefore, we see the advent of the Jim Crow system of racial segregation in the American south. To gain the free labor force the southern aristocracy created the “convict-leasing” system. A system widely referred to simply as “slavery by another name”. Under Jim Crow, a slew of vagrancy laws and laws that regulated just about every aspect of black people’s lives in southern society. There was so many laws that it was almost impossible not to break them. If you looked at a white person you could get locked up. If you were out past dark you could get locked up; therefore, this created a huge upswell of newly freed slaves who were newly enslaved convicts. These convicts would then be leased to old plantation owners for years at a time and they would be forced to work their lands.

“Convicts were invariably leased to prominent and wealthy Georgian families who worked them on railroads and in coal mining. Arkansas actually paid companies to work their prisoners for much of the time the system was in place. No state official was empowered to oversee the plight of the prisoners, and businesses had complete autonomy in the disposition and working conditions of convict laborers. Mines and plantations that used convict laborers commonly had secret graveyards containing the bodies of prisoners who had been beaten and/or tortured to death. Convicts would be made to fight each other, sometimes to the death, for the amusement of the guards and wardens. Unlike the other Southern states, only half of Texas inmates were black. Blacks were sent to sugar plantations. The Southern states were generally broke and could not afford either the cost of building or maintaining prisons. The economic but morally weak and incorrect solution was to use convicts as a source of revenue, at least, to prevent them from draining the fragile financial positions of the states.”

This system of “slavery by another name” or convict leasing continued on until its abolition in 1941 by Franklin D. Roosevelt after massive public outcry against

the practice. In the decades after the abolition of the convict leasing system we began to see the rise of mass incarceration and the reinvention of a new system of slavery and profiteering, again by another name.

With the end of Jim Crow in the 1960’s we began to see the new War on Drugs in the 1980’s, where CIA operatives flooded black communities with crack cocaine and started a racialized campaign to lock up young impoverished people of color described as “hyper predators,” when in reality most of them were non-violent offenders. This brought a huge surge of prisoners into the system. The vast majority being people of color. Over the next few decades the prison population almost quadrupled in size. Today there are more people incarcerated in the United States than another country in the world with at least 2 million people locked up at any given time. With these millions of prisoners there has also developed a multi billion dollar prison industry.

### *Making this new system profitable:*

Today the prison industry is a multi multi billion dollar industry. Private prison contractors such as the GEO group now build and administer a growing number of prisons in the US. Many of these prisons are immigrant detention centers; however, they are constantly lobbying the government to administer more regular prisons as well. Last year their annual revenue alone was 1.6 billion dollars. They are also one of the biggest lobbyist for harsher sentencing laws in the country. The GEO group alone spends over \$25 million a year on convincing politicians to vote for more draconian laws that fill their filthy money making dungeons. This is an alarming trend that is only growing in the country; altogether the private prison industry is a 4.8 billion dollar industry. And, that’s just the private prison industry alone!

At least 37 states have legalized the contracting of prison labor by private corporations that mount their operations inside state prisons. The list of such companies contains the cream of U.S. corporate society: IBM, Boeing, Motorola, Microsoft, AT&T, Wireless, Texas Instrument, Dell, Compaq, Honeywell, Hewlett-Packard, Nortel, Lucent Technologies, 3Com, Intel, Northern Telecom, TWA, Nordstrom’s, Revlon, Macy’s, Pierre Cardin, Target Stores, and many more. All of these businesses are



excited about the economic boom generation by prison labor. Just between 1980 and 1994, profits went up from \$392 million to \$1.31 billion. "In 1999, state prison industries employed 56,000 inmates (seven percent of the state prison population) and generated \$3 billion in sales and \$67 million in profit. Inmates worked seven hours a day and the daily wage ranged from \$2.26 to \$6.52. The gross wages paid to inmates totaled \$80 million and the net wages totaled \$24 million. The states garnished 70 percent of inmate wages for victim restitution, child support, and cost of incarceration (The Criminal Justice Institute, 2000). The largest state prison industry belongs to the Texas Correctional Industry (TCI). Established in 1963, TCI now has 43 facilities at 35 different Texas Department of Criminal Justice units, with the heaviest concentration in East Texas. These factories produce signage (metal and plastic), mattresses, shoes, garments, brooms, license plates, printed matter, detergents, furniture, textile and steel products. In 2000, it used 7,000 inmates and generated \$83 million in sales and \$350,000 in profit. TCI, however, does not pay its inmate workers wages" (The Criminal Justice Institute, 2000).

Now with all of this we are just considering the money made from prisoners labor. Let's not consider the money being made off prisoners as a captive consumer market, forced to buy goods at exorbitant rates. Last year alone the Securus, which provides phone services to 2,600 prisons and jails in 47 states made \$404.6 million last year alone. According to the Huffington Post Securus is also aiming to purchase JPay which would send their profits well over the billion dollar mark. This is just the tip of the iceberg of all the ways that capitalism and their cronies in the state conspire to make money off of their captives.

What this all means is that prisoners are both a lucrative cheap labor pool that prisons can draw from to undercut labor on the outside and win fast and cheap profits as well as being a captive consumer market where they can sell products for a far higher rate than they can to consumers in the outside world.

As Patrick argues, it's important to remain objective. Subjectivity will not lend the truth, yet Patrick bases most of his assumptions about prison labor from his subjective experience in the prison system with not being able to get a job as a reality that prison is not a form of slavery. In reality we can see that prisons meet all of

the criteria of a form of slavery. Industrial production is happening inside prisons across the country and Oregon as well; albeit, to a smaller degree.

Oregon prisoners have been contracted to produce everything from Solar Panels for corporations such as Solar City, as mentioned in a previous article, clothing with the Prison Blues factory, furniture with OCE, and are even forced to fight the wildfires in Oregon as reported by many prisoners I am in contact with. Many of whom have suffered terrible work accidents which they will surely go uncompensated.

To an extent forced labor does exist in the prison system in Oregon. But Oregon is just a single part in the wider prison system in this country and the global capitalist system at large. To consider your subjective experience alone and say prison slavery does not exist, is not being objective. While you as an individual prisoner in Oregon have not be forced to go out and work, many have. You must consider the prison system in the United States as one large system, Oregon just being one of its elements. Furthermore forced labor is not the only kind of slavery; although, it is a practice that happens daily in many prisons around the country.

Let's refer back to the definition of slavery. "Slavery, bondage, servitude refer to involuntary subjection to another or others. Slavery emphasizes the idea of complete ownership and control by a master." Are prisoners not put in bondage and subjected to involuntary servitude at the behest of their imposed masters the state and society? Warehoused or force to work, is this not equally intolerable condition to put human beings into? To isolate them from society to place them in a cage and expect them to be reformed when they are forced to live their daily lives like automatons, marching to the mindless regiments of the prison officials or be subjected to solitary confinement which is a form of torture? This is the grounds that slavery can be defined. Is not the condition of being forced into a cage for months or years on in, in solitary confinement equally intolerable to being forced to work?

Prisoners in Oregon, such as those workers in the Prison Blues factory are paid far above that of the average prisoner in the country. Prisoners in Oregon maybe could be defined as the House Slaves of the Prison Slavery system wherein they get paid a little bit better, have a little

bit better conditions, where labor is used as a reward for as you mentioned 4 years good time; that doesn't change the fact that it is still a form of slavery, that you are still enslaved, that we are all enslaved, held captive, held hostage by the state to survive in a capitalist system on their terms or face, yet again cold steel.

### *The Changing role of labor and commodity in Late Stage Capitalism*

Our whole society is a prison. Cities and geographies are increasingly being engineered to make people feel isolated, to make people feel surveilled and create notions that all public space is now private space. The logic of the state is that all citizens are potential enemy combatants in a world where the spook of terrorism lurks behind every door.. Patrolled by policemen that enforce our movement from sites of consumption, work and home. If we don't play along we're always threatened with prison. We are expected to follow the societal rules set by the ruling class, the proper forms of conduct or we might find ourselves going from wage slaves to prison slaves.

Do we ever own our own means to our own existence or are we all forced to labor (that is to use our bodies or have our own bodies used in a way that is profitable for another) in order to survive? You mention in another article that the prison guards enforce job security instead of rehabilitation? Is this not a form of labor/economic exploitation? The guard has to make sure that your body does what the rules say it's supposed to. He is the manger, and you are the worker and the product. You perform the labor of pretending to "rehabilitate", to move in pacificity with your body, and once you have done your time you can leave and society can put a big rubber stamp on the problem on you that says reformed. And the prisoner can then leave con-college.

At the end of the day everyone in the prison is engaging in this performative labor process. And once back on the streets you'll be faced with the same reality as ever before, the same sick oppressive careless brutal society that cast you into prison without a care. The product is the pacification of the "dangerous class" sold back to the upper and middle classes to ensure confidence in the capitalist system and the state. . Sure you're not producing a tangible product that's being sold, but for

capitalists today the production and sale of solid physical products is no longer the number one source of profit. In fact according to David Graeber, the author of the book *Debt: the last 5000 years*; Under late-stage capitalism, capitalists who engage in making actual products are increasingly entering a sort of “profit paradox”. Most profits are actually being made in the financial sector where wall-st, hand in hand, with world government enablers have cooked up schemes of various types of financial speculation and machinations to make generate synthetic profit, capitalism is no longer the same beast it was 100 years ago. Profit is increasingly being made from intangible, cultural and information products, things you can’t put your hands on.

Companies like Facebook make billions off selling intellectual property and private information of their users to other firms. The profit paradox is a situations where capitalists have been finding less and less profits from selling actual physical products. Over time the cost of raw materials has steadily gone up due to scarcity (we live on a planet with finite natural resources, and as more gets used up the cost of obtaining them to makes things goes up). The fact that capitalists increasingly want to pay laborers in the west as little money as possible has dulled out their consumer markets and thus reduced how much people are willing to pay for products, reducing the profitability of product. Another big way that capitalists have traditionally increased profitability is by offshoring production to reduce the cost of labor;however, everywhere these companies, eventually workers organize and demand more money for their work. This is a process playing out all over China and the rest of East Asia right now.

This new capitalist order is what many neo-Marxists call “late-stage capitalism” as traditional modes of production become increasingly un-profitable for capitalists they have to constantly create new synthetic markets to keep capital growing. Thats where you hear about all these “bubbles,” the tech bubble, the housing bubble, etc. Capitalists have to manufacture profitable conditions by creating financial machinations like sub-prime loans. Lately these machinations have been blowing up in their face, and creating an increasingly unstable economic situation. For instance the when the housing bubble popped it created the great

recession of 2008.

Furthermore, you see a huge boom in industries such as the prison industry, the private security industry, the military arms industry, information security industries, etc, etc, etc. These are all industries that are directly tied to the state and repressive apparatuses, and they are the most stable industries for growth right now because of it. Capitalism is finding a way to even make a buck out of its own decline, however, it’s also setting itself up for a bizarre new form of capitalism based off profiting off of the control of human bodies as its prime source of profit.

A new system where everyone is constantly engaged in the labor process consciously or not through the new predominance that social media plays in the social lives of everyone in the outside world. We have also seen the militarization of everyday life, where today police officers are only distinguishable from occupying soldiers in Afghanistan by the color of their uniforms a processes egged on by the growing arms industry. Where drones fly over Palestine and El-Paso. Everywhere around us capitalism is profiting off its own decline. In an attempt to sure up the coercive powers of the state by making repression another manufactured bubble economy of its own.

#### *Conclusion:*

In society the poor and working class are constantly in a struggle to elevate themselves out of their wage-slave class. This is why many work their entire lives to save up enough money and “retire” from their condition of slavery and gain a moment of reprieve before they die; alternatively; this is why many turn to crime and expropriate means to liberate themselves from wage-slavery by taking what they need to survive in the immediate, again gaining only a moment of reprieve from their condition before they meet the brutal realities of a state who has a monopoly on violence. Unfortunately for many who choose this more express path are then bounded and gagged by the state and subjected to our modern day form of chattel slavery (if not ruthlessly murder), aka the prison system. Labor is a condition to be overcame, it is a condition of slavery and no person wishes to be a beast of burden their entire lives. I have no hostility towards anyone taking the means they feel fit to liberate themselves from this conditions

It is through the terror of being incarcerated, of being neutralized from society or murdered by the state that maintains the current status quo of wage slavery and prison slavery. Divide and conquer has always been the motto of the oppressor. Divide the working class between good citizens and bad terrorists, between working and middle class, always provide a carrot. The stick comes in and we have the prison class, then divide those between the good prisoners and the bad, the ones who get put in solitary and those who get to enjoy the various luxuries or “privileges” of living in a cage.

They always give you the option for a bigger or smaller cage. You can go from the cage of the city patrolled by the militarized police, who will ruin your life with the smallest infraction, to the cage of the prison where they can put you in a smaller cage of the isolation unit if you don’t play along their as well. And thusly is how order is maintained. Slavery and captivity go hand in hand with capitalism. They are synonymous. While in Oregon conditions may be a bit better, with a bit less forced labor, the prison system in the United States can very well be characterized as a system of prison slavery when taken as a whole. It’s just a matter of how you fit in.

So, let’s not mince words. Slavery, bondage, involuntary servitude, involuntary warehousing the condition is the same. Humans living in cages at the behest of another ruling class so that other humans obediently slave away at pointless meaningless jobs in the outside world. What’s important is that we remain human, that we don’t cut off the pain these oppressors are causing us, that we continue to feel the true extent of our oppression and alienation from a living a world. That we use that pain as a source of energy to fuel our inclinations to strive for a better world. That we continue to hope for a society that could be and should be, but isn’t because a select few stand in our way and deprive us all of life, freedom and happiness in this insane capitalist cage they have constructed. That we don’t give up on each other and continue to look for the best in each person so that we can bring it forth and overcome our collective traumatization at the hands of this inhumane system through collective action.

The odds are not in our favor and many bones rest on the altar of human liberation; however, our only alternative is a life of mental slavery and despotism as we watch capitalism and state raze the world. So we must all

do what little we can and nurture and support others of us who take the risk to make a better world, to do the ethical thing and live with dignity in the face of oppression. History has been a dialectical process of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. The masters status quo being the thesis and revolutionaries offering the anti thesis. Always the masters have developed a compromising synthesis to maintain control, while the peasant and slave class have slowly over time won more and more ground for themselves, chiseling away at the edifice of authority and domination. To-day we stand on a brink of smashing this cycle or of total destruction at the hands of the masters capitalist system. As global warming, the result of the masters industrial capitalist system threatens to make our world uninhabitable. Our choice is anarchy or annihilation. The chances are not in our favor but as criminal mastermind smuggler and rebel general Han Solo says "never tell me the odds".

Onwards!

*But I Get Up Again*

By Tizz

Cyclops ogre fuming out the nostrils ready to destroy all my most futile attempts. Failure is inevitable but I gotta get up and walk off my limp. Life in this society is sold as soft. Brute bullheadedness can get u your own loft. Endurance is key to any kind of victory. Small time politicians get whipped out with their own mops and fade from history. Failure to see the bigger picture is the result of the common elixir. Death in this struggle over manufactured scarcity is an inevitable reality. Utopias on mountain tops sitting on mole hills, we got a long way to drill, build, tonics to still, false dreams to kill. Now let's embody the real.

A dazzling shining city exterminating the gritty. welcome to the bridge city, where the houseless soul refuses to pay the troll. But for the lack of the dollar you will always pay a toll. Resting in dark alleys intimate knowledge of geographies. Observations lend insights, the shards of street movement pulsating and seen as urban totality, arcane knowledge of secret cold wars disguised as normality. Displaced permanence generating grounded realities of the metropolises growing monstrosities. It's a nasty

site you don't want to think about when you go out for the night. Different time scales shifting, if u can keep up with the bail, living in homes, in many ways like jail cells. Sitting at the bar and staring at screens to confuse this basic banality. Mental death is the eventuality. Powerlessness makes life dull. Looking at these leaders thinking who needs to get shot, skulls. Sitting in my own skin my brain is a self trained parcelled commodity, nope nothing special inside of me, just a radiating lobotomy with everything they pulled out of me. Nothing to give, nothing to take, your performance ego I aim to desolate. Radical subtext a differentiated mess, give it ur best, raid the rich and share the loot chest. Personality under duress I can feel the stress pressing on my chest so much stagnation around me, compounded in heat, these streets grind meat mindlessly. Concrete angles skull fuck edges collapse on the spine. Try to rewind but only find there was no better time just divine confused communities desolated by over development strategies. Find a body to hold and a trench to dig is the best bet for most in humanity.

Clinging on the porcelain bowl detesting man's soul, with each gag, to the only God I know. You said you'd stick to me like glue but who was that u just left me to screw. Drivers in my head refusing to let me go to bed. Insomnia depression, when will I learn my lesson. This city is chopped up and skewed and I don't mean to be rude but it's only home for the doomed. All I see here are tombs and ghosts living like cartoons masticating to a strange cultural boom as they watch the world be consumed. So I pick up a broom and clean up as much shit as I can.

#### Final Notes

Write to us! Send us articles, drawings or poems and we will include them. Let us know how you are doing and whats going down where you are at!

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## THE OREGON PRISONER FORUM VOL.2

